

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An electronic endoscope apparatus comprising:

a scope in which a solid image pickup element is mounted and in which a metal member is provided as a sheath;

a processor device having a grounded housing, to which the scope is connected and which executes signal processing; and

wherein a static-electricity-suppressing part is provided between the sheath metal member of said scope and said processor device housing ground ~~processor device~~; and

wherein said metal member as the sheath is composed of a ring-like metal member including an angle ring in an insertion section, a metal member comprising a metal frame in an operation section, and a ring-like metal member in a cable section, said metal members being electrically connected together.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The electronic endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sheath metal member of said scope is connected to said processor device housing ground via a shield

box in a scope-side connector circuit section.

4. (currently amended) An electronic endoscope apparatus comprising:

a scope in which a solid image pickup element is mounted and in which a metal member is provided as a sheath ~~and~~;

a processor device to which the scope is connected and which executes signal processing; and

wherein a static-electricity-suppressing part is provided between the sheath metal member of said scope and a ~~scope-side~~ patient-side circuit ground;

wherein said metal member as the sheath is composed of a ring-like metal member including an angle ring in an insertion section, a metal member comprising a metal frame in an operation section, and a ring-like metal member in a cable section, said metal members being electrically connected together.

5. (cancel)

6. (currently amended) The electronic endoscope apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said scope-side circuit ground is a ground terminal in the ~~scope-side~~ patient-side connector circuit section.

7. (new) The electronic endoscope apparatus according to claim

1, wherein said static-electricity-suppressing part is composed of a static-electricity-suppressing element utilizing a surge absorber or an air gap.

8. (new) The electronic endoscope apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said static-electricity-suppressing part is composed of a static-electricity-suppressing element utilizing a surge absorber or an air gap.